

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01
SP-02 USIA-06 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01
CEA-01 NSC-05 SS-15 PA-01 PRS-01 AF-08 EA-07 EUR-12
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E. O. 11652: N/A
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SUBJECT: UNCTAD: ECONOMIC COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

REF: GENEVA 514

1. REFTEL'S FEB. 1 DEADLINE PRECLUDES ANY EFFORT BY EMBASSY TO
CANVASS FULL SCOPE OF ECLA ACTIVITIES PROMOTING ECONOMIC COOPERATION
AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. WE WILL ATTEMPT TO ENLARGE UPON
THE FOLLOWING PRESENTATION IN COMING DAYS SHOULD THE DEPARTMENT
AND THE GENEVA MISSION DEEM THE EXERCISE WORTHWHILE.

2. HAVING AMONG ITS ORIGINAL OBJECTIVES LATIN AMERICAN
ECONOMIC INTEGRATION, ECLA HAS OVER THE YEARS ATTEMPTED TO
FOSTER THE DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL AGREEMENTS AND THE ADOPTION
OF COMMON REGIONAL POSITIONS IN A NUMBER OF AREAS. ECLA IS OF
COURSE A THINK TANK AND INFORMATION COLLATOR RATHER THAN A POLICY-
MAKING BODY FOR THE REGION. IT HAS HAD ONLY LIMITED SUCCESS
IN GETTING LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES TO RECOGNIZE COMMON ECONOMIC
INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES, AND ESPECIALLY IN GETTING THOSE
COUNTRIES TO ACT TOWARD COMMON PURPOSES.

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3. SINCE AT LEAST THE DAYS OF RAUL PREBISCH ECLA HAS GIVEN
PREEMINENT ATTENTION TO TRADE ISSUES. LAFTA IS IN PART AN
OUTGROWTH OF ECLA PRODDING FOR THE REMOVAL OF REGIONAL TRADE
BARRIERS. IN RECENT YEARS TYZE MOVEMENT FOR REGIONAL ECONOMIC
INTEGRATION HAS LOST JUST ABOUT ALL OF ITS STEAM. ECLA IN TURN
HAS DIRECTED MORE OF ITS EFFORTS TOWARD GETTING REGIONAL SUPPORT

FOR COMMODITY AGREEMENTS, ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE PRODUCES FOR WHICH
LA IS A PRINCIPAL SUPPLIER -- E.G., SUGAR, COPPER, COFFEE.
ECLA HAS ALSO URGED, WITHOUT ANY EVIDENT SUCCESS, THE ADOPTION
OF A REGIONAL POSITION IN MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS.

4. THE REGION'S FAST GROWING EXTERNAL DEBT AND OIL PRICE
RELATED BOP PROBLEMS HAD RECENTLY SHIFTED ECLA'S ATTENTION
TOWARD FINANCIAL ISSUES. THE PLAN FOR A LA SAFETY NET (A LA
OECD FINANCIAL SUPPORT FUND) ORIGINATED AT ECLA BUT SO FAR HAS
FAILED TO GET THE SUPPORT FROM L
AND NONREGIONAL FINANCIAL
AUTHORITIES AND FROM IFIS NEEDED TO MAKE IT OPERATIONAL.

5. INTEGRATION OF REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS, PARTICULARLY
SURFACE SYSTEMS, HAS BEEN ANOTHER AREA TO WHICH ECLA HAS DEVOTED
CONSIDERABLE EFFORT. AGAIN, WE ARE NOT AWARE THAT ITS URGINGS
HAVE PAID OFF IN INCREASED LA COOPERATION IN THIS AREA.

6. ECLA HAS AT VARIOUS TIMES TRIED TO PROMOTE LA COOPERATION IN
THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER FIELDS AND IN THE DEVELOPMENT
OF REGIONAL INSURANCE AND REINSURANCE SCHEMES. LITTLE SEEMS TO
HAVE MATERIALIZED FROM EITHER OF THESE EFFORTS.

7. FINALLY, ECLA HAS ORGANIZED AND PROVIDED MUCH OF THE
INTELLECTUAL CONTENT FOR LA REGIONAL MEETINGS HELD FOR THE PURPOSE
OF DEFINING A REGIONAL POSITION IN SUBSEQUENT UN SPONSORED CONFERENCE
S
DEALING WITH SUCH ISSUES AS POPULATION, FOOD, AND WATER USES. IN
THESE FIELDS -- AS IN THE ENTIRE AREA OF LA DEVELOPMENTAL AND
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FINANCIAL PROBLEMS -- WE HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED BY THE ENERGY
AND FERTILITY OF MIND OF ECLA EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ENRIQUE
EGLESIAS. GIVEN THE AMBIGUOUS ROLE ECLE MUST PLAY, WE THINK
HE HAS MADE IT ABOUT AS MUCH OF A FACTOR AS IS POSSIBLE IN
PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. TO THIS EXTENT, ECLA IS A FORCE IN REGIONAL
COOPERATION, IF ONLY BECAUSE THE PEOPLE AND PROBLEMS WITH
WHICH IT DEALS ARE LARGELY IDENTICAL WITH THOSE OF OTHER LATIN
AMERICAN MULTILATERAL ECONOMIC BODIES.
POPPER

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